



**STATE OF HAWAII
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, May 26, 2017

**PARKING RESTRICTIONS IMPLEMENTED AND FREE PARKING, SHUTTLE
SERVICE OFFERED FOR MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY**

Honolulu – The various organizations collaborating for the combined Memorial Day Ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Punchbowl, would like to remind the public about certain procedures in place for the upcoming event on Monday, May 29, 2017.

No private, unauthorized vehicles will be allowed into the memorial cemetery on Memorial Day until the completion of the ceremony and its coinciding operations. This is expected to occur around noon. TheHandi-Van reserved rides and licensed/marked taxi cabs will be allowed to drive into Punchbowl for drop-off.

Additionally, tour vehicles will be prohibited from accessing the facility for three days starting at 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 27, 2017 until 8 a.m. on Tuesday, May 30, 2017.

Due to heightened security, backpacks and larger bags will not be permitted into the memorial cemetery. Purses and small bags will be allowed, but may be subject to search. Please do not bring food, umbrella, or chairs. Water and sunscreen are recommended as covered seating is limited for the ceremony. Reserved seating will be offered to veterans and invited guests. Remaining seats will be offered to the public on a first come, first served basis.

The ceremony begins at 8:30 a.m. and is free and open to the public. However, those attending must be within the memorial cemetery by 8 a.m.

Free shuttles will be available for the public from the Alapaʻi Transit Center from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. the morning of the ceremony. Eighteen city buses will continuously shuttle attendees during this time. The last shuttle departs at 7:30 a.m. Shuttle service back to the Alapaʻi Transit

Center will commence following the conclusion of the ceremony and the last shuttle will depart at noon from Punchbowl. Regular bus rules apply to the shuttle service, including limits on baggage.

Shuttle riders are encouraged to park at one of several free sites, including: the Frank F. Fasi Municipal Building parking lot (accessible from the Beretania Street entrance), Alapaʻi Transit Center parking lot, and President William McKinley High School's parking lot (accessible from S. King Street). After the ceremony, the gates at McKinley High School will be closed following the last shuttle bus departure from the memorial cemetery.

CEREMONY INFORMATION

The ceremony will include speeches, presentation of wreath, a cannon salute, a U.S. Air Force and Hawaiʻi Air National Guard flyover, playing of taps, and performances by the Royal Hawaiian Band.

This year's joint ceremony honoring the 50th anniversary will be larger than Memorial Day events in previous years and is expected to attract some 3,000 attendees.

The event is being sponsored by Governor David Ige, Mayor Kirk Caldwell, the U.S. Veterans Administration, the State of Hawaiʻi Office of Veteran Services, the City and County of Honolulu, the 50th Anniversary of Vietnam Commemorative Committee, various Vietnam veterans organizations, and several other groups.

SEW A LEI FOR MEMORIAL DAY

Prior to the Memorial Day Ceremony, an estimated 38,000 lei will be made, donated, and placed on gravesites within the cemetery. To help meet this goal, the public will have several opportunities to donate their pre-made lei and share their lei-making skills or materials.

Today, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the city will host its annual Sew a Lei for Memorial Day event at Honolulu Hale. During that free event you can drop off your fresh flowers or lei (measuring 20" to 24" in circumference), attend lessons on how to make lei, and help to make lei yourself. Additional lei-sewing events are being held at Waipahu District Park, Kailua District Park, Waimānalo District Park, and Makua Aliʻi Center starting at 9 a.m.

You may also drop off your lei at several sites across the island of Oʻahu, including at every city fire station from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday. For a list of those sites, and for additional information on the Memorial Day Ceremony, please visit the Department of Parks and Recreation's Memorial Day webpage by clicking [here](#).

If you wish to donate lei on Saturday or Sunday, please drop them off at Punchbowl. The Boy Scouts of Hawaiʻi will be placing lei at the memorial cemetery on Sunday, May 28 during an event beginning at 1 p.m.

There will be numerous other events leading up to Memorial Day in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. This includes a parade down Kalākaua Avenue in Waikīkī on Saturday, May 27, 2017. For more information on scheduled events, please visit www.vietnam50years.org

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